

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4198

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5277

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP (RIEGLE, D.W.)

SUBJECT: CODEL RIEGLE: VISIT TO CAIRO

1. SUMMARY: CONGRESSMAN DONALD W. RIEGLE PAID 40-HOUR VISIT TO CAIRO MAY 23-25. RIEGLE MET WITH SAYED MAR'I SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, GENERAL GAMASY, MINWAR AND PRESIDENT SADAT. DUE TO COINCIDENCE OF IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT WE WERE UNABLE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN. CHARGE HOSTED DINNER FOR RIEGLE AND SENATOR BAKER MAY 23, INVITING AMONG OTHER MINFIN, MIN OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND NUCLEAR POWER AND MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. RIEGLE WAS GUEST OF DR. GAMAL OTEIFY, DEPUTY SPEAKER, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AT MAY 25 LUNCHEON. RIEGLE SEEMED IMPRESSED BY EGYPTIAN DESIRE FOR PEACE AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK OVERALL SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSMAN RIEGLE MET WITH SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SAYED MAR'I MAY 24 FOR NEARLY ONE HOUR, DURING WHICH PRIMIN SALIM BRIEFLY SAT IN ON DISCUSSION. MAR'I STRONGLY CRITICIZED LETTER OF 76 US SENATORS, CITING IT AS CONGRESSIONAL EFFORT PRE-EMPT USG ME POLICY REASSESSMENT. HE SAID EGYPTIANS HAD BRIEFED NUMEROUS CONGRESSMEN, BUT OBVIOUSLY NEEDED TO DO MORE. MAR'I TOLD RIEGLE THAT, WHILE MANY EGYPTIANS HAD HIGH HOPES FOR SALZBURG, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE DID NOT. HIS CONCERN WAS THAT, IF MOMENTUM

TOWARD PEACE WERE LOST, WE WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THE PRESENT EGYPTIAN POLICY AND ATTITUDE WOULD PREVAIL IN ONE YEAR'S TIME AND FEARED COLLAPSE OF US POSITION IN ME. IN REPLY TO RIEGLE'S QUESTION, SPEAKER SAID THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY OVERALL PACKAGE SOLUTION, HOWEVER DESIRABLE, COULD BE ACHIEVED AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. MAR'I FELT THAT IF ANOTHER DISENGAGEMENT COULD STILL BE ARRANGED IN SINAI, GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE CONVENED IN BETTER ATMOSPHERE. IN DISCUSSION ON PALESTINIANS, HE SAID ISRAELIS WERE MAKING SAME MISTAKE ARABS HAD MADE PREVIOUSLY WITH THEM; I.E. REFUSING TO TALK. PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE WOULD BE SET UP IN SOME WEEKS, HE PREDICTED, AND MIGHT OFFER POSSIBILITY TO BREAK IMPASSE. ASKED BY RIEGLE WHAT MESSAGE HE MIGHT CARRY TO ISRAEL, MAR'I SUGGESTED THAT THEY COULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE BY UNILATERALLY WITHDRAWING, SAY, 15 KM WHEN SUEZ CANAL OPENS. AS FOR THE US, ONE HELPFUL STEP IT COULD TAKE WOULD BE TO ISSUE DECLARATION THAT THE PROTECTION OF ISRAEL ONLY APPLIED TO TERRITORY WITHIN ITS 1967 BORDERS.

3. RIEGLE ALSO CALLED ON MINWAR GAMASY. GAMASY TOLD RIEGLE HE FELT, WITHIN CONTEXT OF OVERALL ME SOLUTION, EGYPT WOULD ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL BUFFER FORCE OR DEMILITARIZED ZONE ALONG BORDER WITH ISRAEL. REGARDING SYRIA, GAMASY DISCUSSED SYRIAN POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS BELIEF THAT ASSAD IS A MODERATE BUT THAT HE HAS TO CONTROL HIS INTERNAL, COMPETING FORCES BY APPEARING HARDLINE. HE CITED RECENT EXTENSION OF THE UN MANDATE AS AN EXAMPLE OF SYRIAN REGIME'S GROWING MODERATION. RE GOLAN, GAMASY SAID THAT HE BELIVES THAT FORMULA CAN BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY DEMILITARIZED ZONE INTERNATIONAL BUFFER FORCE COULD BE STATIONED ALONG TOP OF HIGHTS. RIEGLE ASKED GAMASY IF IT WERE NOT NOW TIME TO GIVE UP THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND LOOK TOWARD A FULL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE. GAMASY READILY AGREED, SAYING HE

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HAD BEEN URGING PRESIDENT SADAT TO GIVE UP THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND MOVE MORE QUICKLY TO REGAIN ALL EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. HE SAID THE ISRAELIS HAVE OCCUPIED THE EGYPTIAN LAND SO LONG THEY BELIEVE IT IS THEIRS. GAMASY DECLINED TO COMMENT ON RIEGLE'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, SAYING IT IS POLITICAL MATTER.

4. RIEGLE'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT WAS REPORTED SEPARATELY.

5. COMMENT: RIEGLE PRESENTED HIMSELF AS PROPONENT OF US POLICY IN AREA WHICH SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK A FULL SOLUTION OF ME PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE RIEGLE LEFT CAIRO WITH IMPRESSION OF SINCERITY OF EGYPTIANS TO SEEK SOLUTION. HE SEEMED CONVINCED THAT CHANCE FOR REAL PEACE EXISTS NOW AND US MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT NOW WAS TIME TO PROPOSE OVERALL SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. THE SIGNING OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD TOOK PLACE SHORTLY PRIOR HIS ARRIVAL. HE REPEATED BELIEF THAT LETTER NOT DIRECTED AGAINST EGYPT, AND THAT CONGRESS, BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, WANTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD, PARTICULARLY EGYPT. MAESTRONE

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